

**BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING
2012 EARTH DAY AWARD NOMINATION**

REVIEW SHEET

NOMINATION: Simplot Phosphates, LLC

ACTIVITY: Minerals

CATEGORY: Environmental Improvement to an active mine site, drilling or recovery site, or field

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:



Invite nominee to make presentation in March



Do not invite

REASON:

I am not familiar with the project they did, but from the description it sounds worthy of at least a presentation- in spite of all the awards they have.

REVIEWED BY: *Paul Baker*

**2012
UTAH BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING
EARTH DAY AWARDS**

Nomination Form

Nominee Information:

Company Name Simplot Phosphate LLC
Address 9401 North Highway 191
City, State, Zip Vernal, Utah 84078-7802
Contact Person John Spencer
Phone (435) 781-3348
Site Name Vernal Phosphate Operation
Location Vernal, Utah

Activity and Category (Please check one activity and one category):

Activity:

- ☐ Oil and Gas
- ☒ Minerals
- ☐ Coal

Category:

- ☒ Environmental improvement to an active mine site, drilling or recovery site, or field
- ☐ Outstanding results following applications of innovative environmental technology
- ☐ Outstanding final reclamation or site restoration
- ☐ Other: _____

Nominated By:

Name John Spencer
Address 9401 N. Hwy #191
City, State, Zip Vernal, Utah 84078
Phone (435) 781-3348

Nomination Summary (attach additional sheets, photos, etc., as necessary)

See attached

Return no later than January 31, 2012 to: Earth Day Awards, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, P.O. Box 145801. Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801. Phone (801) 538-5324; Fax (801) 359-3940. Nominations may also be submitted electronically, email to Jimspringer@utah.gov

Earth Day Award Nomination

in the category of

Environmental Improvement to an active mine site

I am nominating Simplot Phosphates, LLC (Simplot) for an Earth Day Award, in the Environmental Improvements category for their efforts in ***Stream Bank Stabilization and Restoration***. Simplot is a mining company that does the right thing. Simplot consistently goes the "extra mile" to improve and reclaim mined land for fish and wildlife habitat. As a mining company, Simplot understands its responsibility/stewardship towards the Environment.

Simplot has been in operation mining phosphate in the Uintah Basin for many years. Each year efforts are made towards environmental improvements. This year Simplot saw and recognized the need for stream bank stabilization and restoration on Big Brush Creek. Every year snow melt and spring runoff erodes a large portion of the Big Brush Creek stream bank in the upstream bend closest to highway 191. For the last few years, this bend in the creek has been closely monitored.

As the stream erodes at this section, the bend becomes more pronounced and it causes accelerated stream bank erosion. This has cut into the historic homestead property; which is still used to this day to raise hay and alfalfa, the majority of which is used for reclamation purposes. The continually accelerating stream bank erosion, has put in jeopardy the utilities in this region. The phone lines, and natural gas line were right in the path of the stream bank erosion. Additionally, if left unattended the stream bank erosion could conceivably cut through the historic homestead, and jeopardize highway 191, which is a major transportation corridor through this area.

A stream bank alteration permit application was filed and when the permit was received we partnered with Uintah County Roads Department and Questar gas to repair and stabilize the stream bank. By stabilizing this portion of the stream we have preserved intact the Historic Homestead property, protected the utilities and improved fish habitat. We take advantage of this opportunity to demonstrate that Simplot Phosphates LLC is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the environment.

In conclusion, Simplot spends thousands of dollars every year improving the environment. Ensuring environmental protection is a first priority. Simplot provides an excellent example of mining industry not only existing in harmony with and enhancing the environment, but of the environment thriving because of the mining industry. Their reclamation efforts represent a first class example of restoring mined land to a beneficial use. Simplot truly embodies environmental responsibility and corporate stewardship of the land. These efforts are evidence that the mining industry is doing its part in the necessary job of preserving ecosystems.